Strawberry Shortcake™

Babysitting Blues

SWEET STICKERS INSIDE!

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Babysitting Blues

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One afternoon at her café, Strawberry Shortcake decided to make the world's first rainbow smoothie. Her friends watched with excitement as she prepared to add the last flavor. It was her berry favorite—strawberry!

But when Strawberry pulled the handle for the strawberry juice, she got a big surprise. Purple smoothie poured out of the red spout and yellow smoothie came from the orange spout. All of the flavors and colors were mixed up!

"What's going on?" wondered Strawberry.

"Maybe something's wrong at the Berryworks," Blueberry Muffin suggested. The girls decided to go there and see for themselves.

When the girls arrived at the Berryworks, they noticed lots of things were the wrong colors. The strawberries had turned blue. The leaves had become pink. The grass was bright yellow.

And the Berrykins were behaving strangely. They were running around like they were chasing something!

"Princess Berrykin, what's causing all this?" Strawberry asked as she looked around.

"Him." The princess sighed, pointing her wand at a tiny Berrykin peeking out from behind a bush.

"His name is Baby Berrykin. And while he may be bitty, his berry sparkles are very powerful," Princess Berrykin explained. "They can change the colors of anything—not just berries."

The girls watched as the tiny Berrykin changed a ladybug from red to blue . . .
. . . and a butterfly from orange to purple . . .
. . . and Princess Berrykin's wand from pink to yellow!

Princess Berrykin was very worried. The Berry Harvest was just one day away. If Baby Berrykin kept changing the colors of everything, it would ruin the harvest!

"What if I babysat for a day?" Strawberry offered. "That way you wouldn't have to worry about Baby Berrykin."

"Thank you, Strawberry! It would save the harvest," the princess replied gratefully.

Later that day Strawberry took Baby Berrykin to visit Lemon Meringue's salon. Lemon was styling Plum Pudding's hair.

Plum pointed to the bottle Lemon was holding. "My hair feels so greasy. Is that baby oil?"

Oh no! Baby Berrykin must have changed the colors of Lemon's bottles! She couldn't tell the shampoo from the conditioner and the baby oil.

Lemon was very upset. Now she had to do Plum's hair all over again.

Baby Berrykin giggled and ran out of the salon. Strawberry chased after him, but he was too fast. Baby Berrykin disappeared from sight.

At Bitty Mini Golf Course, Mr. Longface Caterpillar was about to win his very first game. Suddenly, all the balls turned green! Without knowing which ball belonged to which player, the game was ruined.

Mr. Longface was so disappointed.

Then he noticed Baby Berrykin giggling.

"You there!" Mr. Longface called. "Did you have something to do with this?"

But Baby Berrykin had already taken off again.

He ran through Berry Bitty City, changing colors here, there, and everywhere! He loved using his berry sparkles.

Baby Berrykin came to Raspberry Torte's Fresh Fashions Boutique and slipped inside. Blueberry Muffin was busy shopping for hats.

"I wish I had a bunch more colors to show you," Raspberry was saying to her friend.

Baby Berrykin giggled and sent berry sparkles flying around the shop. Everything—clothes, shoes, purses, and jewelry—turned different colors.

"Oh no!" Raspberry said. She looked ready to cry. Nothing was the way it was supposed to be.

At that moment, Strawberry burst into the shop.

Strawberry looked around at what the little Berrykin had done.

"Baby Berrykin," she said gently, "you need to ask before you change the colors of things."

"He changed the colors of the golf balls, too!" complained Mr. Longface, who had followed Baby Berrykin to the boutique. "And I was just about to win my first game!"

That gave Strawberry an idea. She asked Mr. Longface if she and Blueberry could take Baby Berrykin to play miniature golf.

"But he'll change the colors of the golf balls," the caterpillar said with a confused look.

"Exactly!" Strawberry whispered mysteriously.

Strawberry, Blueberry, and Baby Berrykin were having so much fun playing mini golf. But just as Blueberry was about to take her next turn, all the balls turned green!

"Well, we can't play unless we know which ball belongs to which player," Strawberry said. "If only there were a way to fix the colors . . ."

Baby Berrykin really wanted to keep playing mini golf, so he quickly changed the balls back to the correct colors. Everyone had a great time finishing the game. Baby Berrykin even got a hole in one!

"Baby Berrykin, you did a berry good job taking the berry sparkles out of the golf balls," Strawberry said. "Could you do that with the other things you changed, too, so everything looks like it did before?"

Baby Berrykin fixed the clothes at Raspberry's shop and the bottles at Lemon's salon. Then he changed all the colors throughout Berry Bitty City and the Berryworks, too. Everyone was so happy that things were back to normal!

Back at her café, Strawberry rewarded Baby Berrykin with a special treat for his good behavior: the world's first rainbow smoothie.

"Pretty—and yummy!" he giggled.

"Thank you, Baby Berrykin," said Strawberry. "I couldn't have made it without you.

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When Strawberry Shortcake volunteers to babysit Baby Berrykin, she doesn't know how tough it will be. Instead of playing with Strawberry and her friends, Baby Berrykin runs around changing the colors of all the things in Berry Bitty City, like the clothing in Raspberry's shop! Will Strawberry's job turn out to be a babysitting disaster?

AMERICAN GREETINGS

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